

Message Text

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ACTION EUR-12

INFO OCT-01 IO-04 EURE-00 ISO-00 CIAE-00 PM-03 INR-05 L-02

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TRSE-00 SAJ-01 DODE-00 H-01 NSC-05 SS-15 SAM-01 NIC-01

AEC-05 OIC-01 OMB-01 AECE-00 DRC-01 /075 W

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FM AMEMBASSY HELSINKI

TO SECSTATE WASHDC PRIORITY 7986

INFO AMEMBASSY BONN

AMEMBASSY COPENHAGEN

AMEMBASSY LONDON

AMEMBASSY MOSCOW

AMEMBASSY OSLO

AMEMBASSY PARIS

AMEMBASSY REYKJAVIK

AMEMBASSY STOCKHOLM

USMISSION USUN NEW YORK

USMISSION NATO BRUSSELS

USMISSION GENEVA

USMISSION MBFR VIENNA

C O N F I D E N T I A L HELSINKI 2146

GENEVA FOR USDEL CSCE

E.O. 11652: GDS

TAGS: PFOR, UR, FI

SUBJECT: PODGORNYY OFFERS SOVIET GUARANTEE OF NUCLEAR-FREE
ZONE FOR NORTHERN EUROPE IN MAIN SPEECH DURING
RECENT OFFICIAL VISIT TO FINLAND.

1. SUMMARY: FROM THE VANTAGE POINT OF HELSINKI, AN
ANALYSIS OF PRESIDENT PODGORNYY'S MAIN OCTOBER 15 SPEECH
DURING HIS RECENT OFFICIAL VISIT TO FINLAND BRINGS OUT
ONLY ONE NEW FEATURE OF SOVIET POLICY. THIS IS THE
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STATEMENT HE MADE THAT THE SOVIET UNION IS READY,

TOGETHER WITH THE OTHER NUCLEAR POWERS, TO GUARANTEE THE STATUS OF A NUCLEAR-FREE ZONE IN THE NORTH OF EUROPE. THE STATEMENT IS DIRECTLY RELATED TO THE KEKKONEN PLAN, FIRST PUT FORTH IN 1963, WHICH THE SOVIETS HAVE SUPPORTED IN GENERAL TERMS IN THE PAST. END SUMMARY

2. IN HIS MAIN SPEECH ON OCTOBER 15 DURING HIS FOUR DAY OFFICIAL VISIT TO FINLAND IN CONNECTION WITH THE CELEBRATIONS OF THE 30TH ANNIVERSARY OF THE SIGNING OF THE ARMISTICE AGREEMENT AND THE FOUNDING OF THE FINNISH-SOVIET SOCIETY, PRESIDENT PODGORNYY BROUGHT UP ONLY ONE NEW FEATURE OF SOVIET POLICY. THIS WAS HIS STATEMENT, IN CONNECTION WITH SUPPORTING THE EARLY CONCLUSION OF THE CSCE, THAT: "THE CONSOLIDATION OF PEACE AND COOPERATION ON THE EUROPEAN CONTINENT WOULD ALSO PROMOTE THE FORMATION OF A NUCLEAR-FREE ZONE IN THE NORTH OF EUROPE AND THE STRENGTHENING OF PEACE ON THE FINNISH-NORWEGIAN BORDER, ON THE BASIS OF PRESIDENT URHO KEKKONEN'S WELL-KNOWN PROPOSALS. THE PEOPLES OF THESE NATIONS WOULD CERTAINLY WELCOME AN AGREEMENT TO THE EFFECT THAT THE TERRITORY OF THEIR STATES WOULD BE EXCLUDED FROM THE SPHERE OF THE ARMS RACE. AS FAR AS THE SOVIET UNION IS CONCERNED, IT IS READY, TOGETHER WITH THE OTHER NUCLEAR POWERS, TO GUARANTEE THE STATUS OF A NUCLEAR-FREE ZONE IN THE NORTH OF EUROPE."

3. THE JOINT FINNISH-SOVIET COMMUNIQUE ISSUED AT THE END OF THE VISIT TAKES UP THE MATTER AS FOLLOWS: "THE PARTIES STATED AS THEY HAVE EARLIER THAT THE SUCCESSFUL SETTLEMENT OF EUROPEAN SECURITY AND COOPERATION ISSUES WILL BE OF GREAT IMPORTANCE FOR STRENGTHENING THE PEACEFUL CONDITIONS THAT PREVAIL IN NORTHERN EUROPE. THE EFFORTS OF THE NORTH EUROPEAN COUNTRIES FOR THE STABILIZATION OF PEACE IN THIS AREA WILL, IN TURN, CONTRIBUTE TO GENERAL DETENTE IN THE WHOLE OF EUROPE. THE IMPORTANCE AND TOPICALNESS OF THE PROPOSALS MADE BY FINLAND FOR A NUCLEAR-FREE ZONE IN THE NORTH AND THE SECURING OF PEACE IN THIS AREA WERE TOUCHED UPON IN CONFIDENTIAL

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THIS CONNECTION."

4. THE "KEKKONEN PLAN" FOR A NUCLEAR-FREE ZONE IN THE NORTH OF EUROPE WAS FIRST PUT FORTH BY KEKKONEN IN 1963. SINCE THEN FINNS HAVE MODIFIED PLAN, THE MAIN CHANGE DURING THE PAST FEW YEARS BEING A PROVISIO THAT THE CONCERNS OF THE INVOLVED STATES WOULD HAVE TO BE MET THROUGH SATISFACTORY GUARANTEES BY THE NUCLEAR STATES. THE FINNS

HAVE BEEN BRINGING UP THE KEKKONEN PLAN FROM TIME TO TIME,
BOTH IN SPEECHES AT THE UN AND AS UNOFFICIAL PROPOSALS
AT THE CSCE AND DISARMAMENT DISCUSSIONS.

5. WE DO NOT KNOW AT WHOSE INITIATIVE PODGORNYY MADE THE
OFFER, FINNISH OR SOVIET, BUT NOTE THAT FINNS DURING
PODGORNYY VISIT DID NOT SPEAK ABOUT GUARANTEES.
KREHBIEL

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